

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
2.	CONTEXT	4
3.	RESULTS	5
4.	ACTIVITIES.....	6
A.	ASISTANCE COMPONENT	6
B.	PREVENTION COMPONENT	19
	INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR COLOMBIANIZATION.....	23
5.	LESSONS LEARNED.....	25
6.	PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING TERM	25
7.	CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN.....	26
8.	CONCLUSIONS.....	26
9.	FINANCIAL REPORT	26
10.	ANNEXES	27

ACRONYMS	
ICBF	Colombian Institute of Family Welfare
CH&Y	Children and Youths
CNRR	Colombian National Commission for Reparation and Reconciliation
ACRSE	High Council for Social and Economical Reintegration
CROJ	Youth Reference and Opportunity Centres
SENA	National Learning Service
SNBF	National System of Family Welfare
MIMA	Integral Model for Marketing and Business Administration
MEN	National Ministry of Education
CIPR	National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment
MDN	Ministry of National Defense
GAO	General Attorney's Office
CRIC	Regional Indigenous Council
ICR	Reintegration Conditions Index
CAL	Childhood and Adolescence Law (1098 of 2006)
CAE	Specialized Assistance Centers
MVRO	Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity Maps
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
PSU	Psychoactive Substances Use
IAG	Illegal Armed Groups

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report concerns the activities of the **New Consolidation Program to Support Child Ex-Combatants and Prevent Recruitment of Children by Illegal Armed Groups 2009-2011** possible by the support of the American People – (USAID), during the period January through March 2009. This Program incorporated the results achieved by the original Program supported by USAID and implemented by IOM since 2001.

Program activities fulfilled goals and objectives through three main components: 1) Direct Assistance to Under-Age Ex-Combatants; 2) Prevention Training in 150 Priority Municipalities; and 3) Institutional Strengthening for *Colombianization*. In the first component, ICBF provided direct assistance to 89 new under-age ex-combatants and to an average of 640 through three reception centers (HAT), seven specialized attention centers (CAE), one youth house, four regional networks of home-placement options. This quarter, a total of 15 employment opportunities were provided; 379 youths received vocational training and income generation assistance; and 89 youths had access to education programs. The Program started with a line base of 551 beneficiaries. IOM provided direct assistance for social and economic reintegration of ex-combatant youths in Chocó, Putumayo and Nariño and Seven CROJ currently serve some 828 beneficiaries.

The second program component included a set of recruitment prevention activities crafted into a unified program that used policy change and mass education to re-shape public mores with the participation of 162,895 beneficiaries. IOM supported the National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment (CIPR), helping it implement flexible strategies that respond to differences in age, gender, ethnicity and disability, providing training for 181 youths and 159 civil servants. Selected youth groups in 105 priority areas implemented productive reconciliation projects. The Maps of Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity (MVRO) tool was updated helping respond to risks faced by youth as IAG recruit.

The institutional strengthening for *Colombianization* included progressive transfer of best practices and methodologies at appropriate levels. IOM provided technical and financial support to 99 Colombian institutions. The MVRO methodology; CROJ model; *Hogar Tutor* modality and other assistance and prevention strategies have been progressively assumed by GOC institutions.

Key Special Results: The results include: (1) 89 ex-combatant children received, health, education, psychosocial and economic reintegration assistance; 379 received vocational and work skills training; 15 employment opportunities were provided (2) 12,134 vulnerable children and youths and 778 teachers and civil servants participated in recruitment prevention activities. Approximately 15,000 persons were indirect beneficiaries. (3) Progressive institutionalization of best practices and methodologies at appropriate levels; (4) well-designed performance monitoring plans developed in close coordination with stakeholders and activity planning period at the operating level; (5) Collaboration on performance management with development partners; (4) Reparation and reintegration projects under implementation.

2. CONTEXT

During the three months under review Colombia underwent an accelerating political and social transition, one reflected in no small measure in the country's numerous and complex issues to assist children released or at risk of recruitment by irregular armed groups.

The head of the CNRR confirmed that twelve-thousand victims of the violence will begin to receive reparations in a process set to begin in May. This process will eventually include 200,000 "atrocity victims" and three million displaced persons; As a first step in a long process that is calculated to include some 200,000 people.

The first 12,000 were chosen from among people who have suffered different kinds of violence, such as those injured by landmines, people who were forcibly recruited as children by IAG and women who endured sexual assault. Reparations programs will include economic, psychosocial and legal assistance to restore victim's assets.

More Colombian civilians continue to flee the violence. The International Committee of the Red Cross pointed to the emergence of new armed groups. It is estimated that between 2.8 to 4 million people have been displaced. About 50 per cent of the IDP are children. The ICRC, confirmed that there was a 'disproportional displacement' of Afro Colombian and of indigenous children; who also are victims of massacres, kidnappings and recruitment by IAG. The international aid agency recorded more than 1,600 violations of international law in 2008, committed by parties in the conflict, including hundreds of summary executions and disappearances. Sexual violence was also used as a tool of war.

More than a thousand children became adults while fighting in Colombia's violent conflict. Both

paramilitaries and guerrillas dragged children into the war, some no older than nine years old. According to a report that was published by newspaper *El Espectador*, the Justice and Peace unit of Colombia's Prosecutor General's Office is investigating 366 cases of the recruitment of minors by the former AUC.

Paramilitaries already confessed 654 cases of the recruitment of minors. Fredy 'El Aleman' Herrera admitted 400 children were recruited under his leadership. Other demobilized leaders referred to the dozens of children recruited by the AUC from the poorer suburbs of Bogotá in the early 2000s. Many deserted and told of how were forced to fight, shoot and kill. Many never returned. The confessions by paramilitaries are still ongoing and new cases of child recruitment may be discovered.

Guerrillas of the FARC and ELN also are involved in CH&Y recruitment; the past years, Colombia's armed forces say they rescued 300 children from armed groups, the majority fighting for the FARC and ELN.

Another 2,500 children escaped the war and surrendered to authorities to enroll in programs to reintegrate them. In total, nearly 4,000 children are registered as released by IAG. ICBF reported that that rural recruitment is higher (86%) than urban recruitment by IAG (14%)

More than a thousand paramilitaries and guerrillas currently enrolled in demobilization programs turned 18 while being enrolled in the ranks of the IAG. They are now prosecuted as adults according to the country's Justice and Peace law.

3. RESULTS

Results for the Quarter January – March 2009 ¹		
Indicators	Program (This Quarter)	Comments
Ex-combatant children	89	Staff program assisted 89 new under-age ex-combatants and an average of 640; out of which 16% are Afro-Colombian and 14% are Indigenous. The original Program finalized with a total of 4,079 children and youths benefited.
Employment Opportunities	15	Fifteen new employment opportunities were created through CROJ strategies. The available labor market areas were merchandising, advertising, construction, bakery and security services.
Vocational skills training	379	105 youths attended an initial training module at SENA to define their vocational profiles in Antioquia, Santander, Bogotá and Valle. Education institutions such as SENA, <i>Escuela Taller de Cartagena</i> , <i>Alexander Von Humboldt</i> provided vocational training (second and third module) to 274 youths.
Access to education	89	100% of the new beneficiaries received special education assessments. Transportation subsidies and school materials were provided to 89 youths. This quarter, 89 new beneficiaries accessed the educational system.
Access to health services	89	89 new beneficiaries received medical assistance and check-ups. A total of 950 health services were provided.
Family reunification	10	Ten family reunification processes took place.
Beneficiaries participating in Recruitment Prevention activities	12,912	Children and youths, as well as teachers, civil servants, families and community leaders participated in recruitment prevention activities
Children & Youths	12,134	1,781 youths were benefited with the National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment (CIPR) and <i>Jovenes por Bogotá</i> and <i>Jovenes Tienen la Palabra</i> projects activities. 10,353 youth received technical and financial assistance as part of the CROJ and educative activities. Approximately, 150,000 indirect beneficiaries participated of recruitment prevention activities.
Teachers & Civil Servants	778	23 civil servants were trained in César; 85 in Huila; 51 in Monteria; and 35 in Meta. 584 teachers were trained as part of IOM educative initiatives.
Institutions strengthened	99	ICBF; MEN; National Committee to Prevent Children Recruitment; Four Governors Office; <i>Estrategia Hechos y Derechos</i> ; <i>Alianza para la Niñez Colombiana</i> . A total of 89 educative institutions were strengthened.

¹ The accumulated results achieved by the original Program supported by USAID and implemented by IOM since 2001 until 2008 are included in the Final Report (N°31). A total of 4,079 children and youth were benefited. Accumulated results, including the New Consolidation Program would be **4,168**

4. ACTIVITIES

A. ASSISTANCE COMPONENT

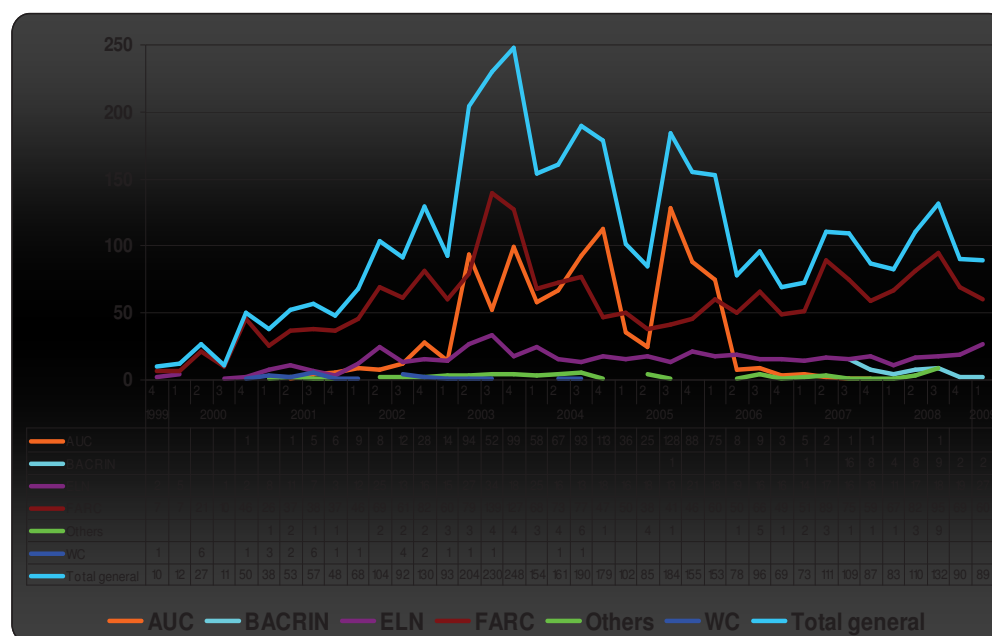
The main objectives of the assistance component are: (i) promotion of extra-institutional “family” settings; and (ii) consolidation of pedagogical models and methodologies from earlier phases. As part of a tripartite partnership between the Government of Colombia (especially ICBF), USAID and IOM, Program staff drafted a 2009 joint work plan. IOM signed sixteen agreements with different NGOs to support educative, cultural and recreational activities.

The Program assisted an average of 640 ex-combatant children, 89 of which entered the program this quarter. IOM provided 100% of the required assistance with the best methodologies and technology tools, focusing on the economic and social reintegration of released from IAG.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

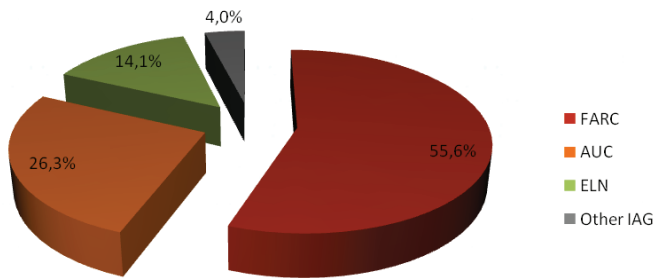
The original ICBF Program benefited 3,876 children and youths from 1999 to 2008. USAID and IOM supported this Program since 2001 and benefited another 254 Indigenous and Afro Colombian Children. The trends and characterization of program beneficiaries were made based on the ICBF accumulated results to date (3,965).

Graph # 1 Entry of the Children to the Program vs. Illegal Armed Group of Origin



The ICBF Consolidation program with USAID and IOM support helped 89 new beneficiaries. An average of 640 youths received assistance this quarter. 2009 entries showed an increasing trend in the number of released children and youth, which started in 2008.

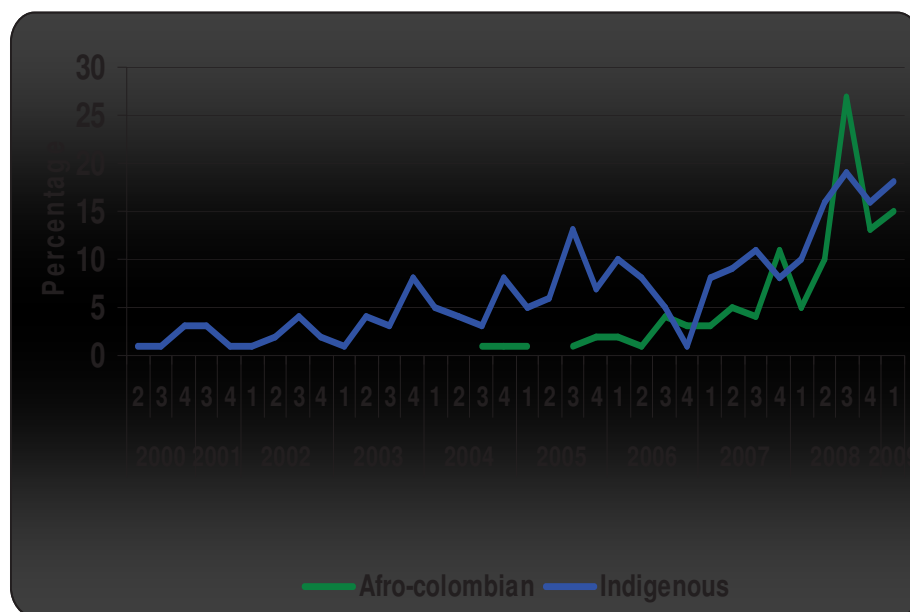
Children and youth demobilized by illegal armed group



A total of 2,204 (55,6%) children and youth were demobilized from the FARC; 26,3 % (1.042) belonged to the AUC, 14,1% (565) came from the ELN and 4 % (159) came from other illegal armed groups. The FARC continues to be the main IAG from which 67% of program beneficiaries escaped. This quarter the proportion of entries coming from the FARC decreased, partially compensated by an increase in the number of entries

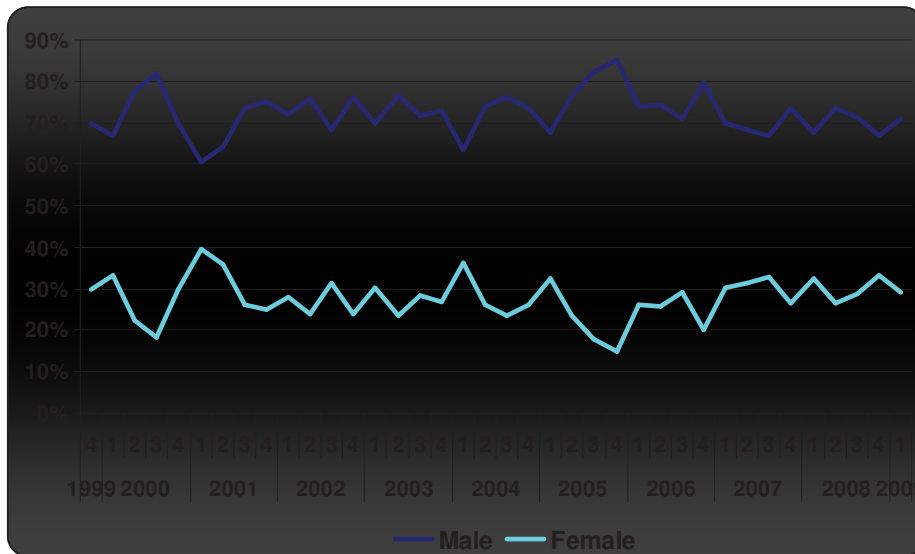
from the ELN. Voluntary demobilization of CH&Y has been less usual in the AUC and BACRIN than in the ELN and FARC, and that it has been slightly higher in the FARC than in the ELN.

Graph #2 Indigenous and Afro Colombians Beneficiaries Vs Date of Entry to the Program



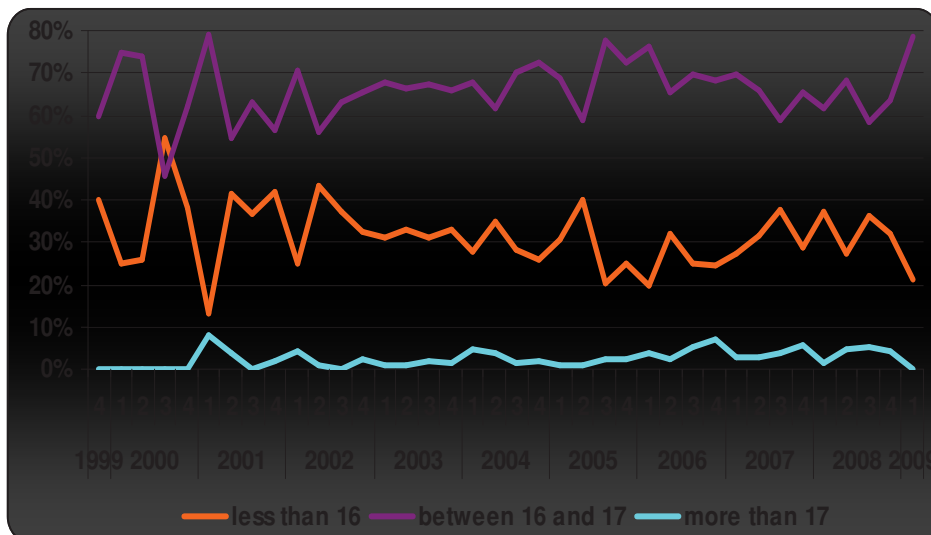
Since the end of 2006 there has been an increasing tendency in the number of entries of indigenous and afro-Colombian children. This quarter 15 Afro-Colombians and 18 Indigenous entered the Program.

Graph #3 – Percentage of Entries by Gender vs. Date of Entry

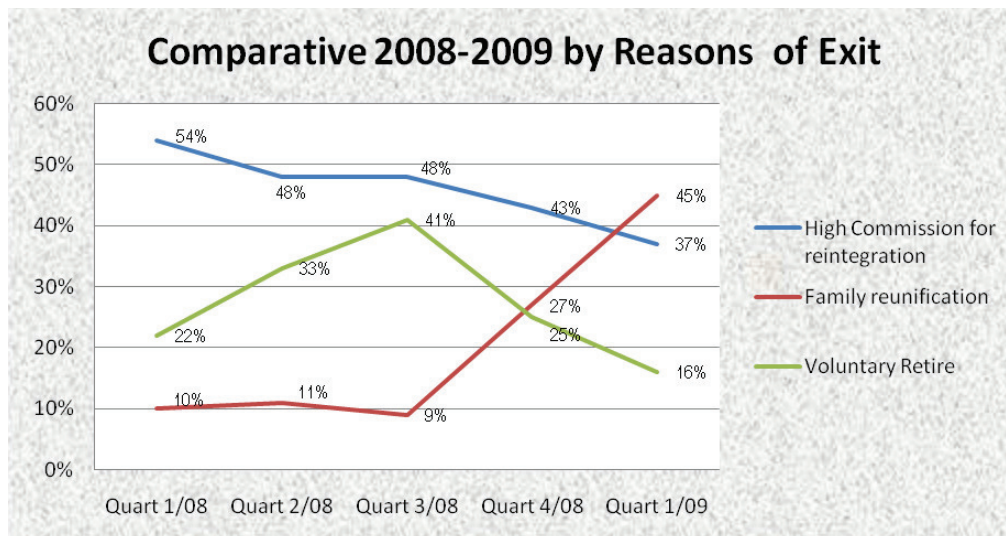


Program gender composition trend is similar since 2001, this period 28% of the new beneficiaries were female and 72% were male. The proportion of female beneficiaries has slightly increased in the last two years as a result of the decrease in the number of children disengaged from the AUC.

Graph #4 –Age of Entry vs. Date of Entry



Most of the program beneficiaries (67%) were between 16 and 17 years old when they entered the program. 30% of the children had 16 years or less, while 2% were over 17. Ages of entry have been quite constant in the former years.



A total of 62 youths left the Program. Family Reunification Services were provided to ten youths. Eighteen youths left the Program to reunite with their families; one is receiving CROJ services; another one went back to his Indigenous community; 23 were remitted to the ACRSE; eight are part of active search by program staff and one youth died. The ICBF developed follow up and monitoring activities to find out the youths, as a result the program found that most of the youth left the program to go and live with their families.

1. Increased use of extra-institutional “family” settings.

IOM and ICBF increased the percentage of program beneficiaries whose assistance is directed via “family” settings. Program assistance moved from approximately 30% in “home” settings to 47%.

Foster Homes *Hogar Gestor* and *Hogar Tutor* Modalities

Foster homes such as the *Hogares Tutores* in Bogotá now assisted some 54 youths and three babies; it has availability for 80 youths. The *Hogares Gestores* in Bogotá complement ICBF home-based initiatives in five other regions and assisted 25 youths.

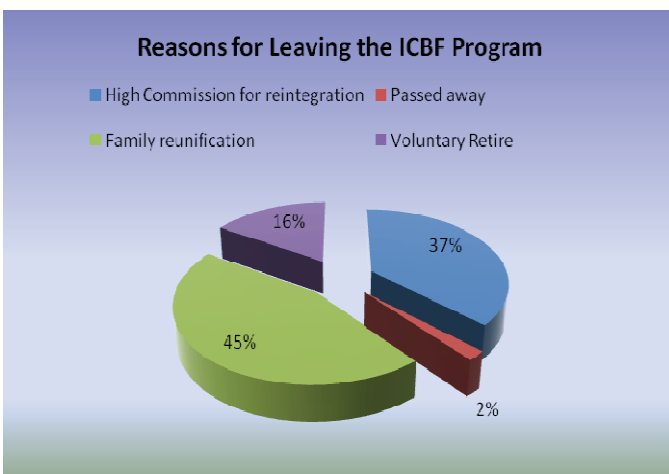
Program coordination selected a new implementing agency (*Proactiva*) to put into operation the *Hogar Tutor* in Bogotá, standardizing the model nationwide. IOM and ICBF provided technical assistance to implementing agencies in areas such as restitution of children rights and social- economic reintegration.

Specialized Attention Centers

The program offers the children comprehensive assistance in seven Specialized Attention Centers (CAE); an average of 198 youth received assistance and 96% of current services were used. Four sub-programs (income generation; education; and health, culture and recreation) were initiated in the CAE, which also provide specific psycho-social assistance to each child, helping him or her overcome the trauma of being recruited.

Exit Support Options

IOM provided substantial reinforcement to social and economic reintegration options so the Program was able to monitor and support the social reintegration process of each individual beneficiary. IOM promoted that children who reunite with their families or left the program voluntary also continue to access Program benefits in order to allow continuing to track their progress. IOM methodologies based on family assistance models were appropriate for children reintegration and for reestablishment of their rights.



A total of 62 youths left the Program. Family Reunification Services were provided to ten youths. Eighteen youths left the Program to reunite with their families; one is receiving CROJ services; another one went back to his Indigenous community; 23 were remitted to the ACRSE; eight are part of active search by program staff and one youth died.

1.1. FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES

IOM methodologies based on family assistance models were appropriate and served to the reintegration of children and youths. Due to the persistence of a violence context (17% of the families benefited were IDP), the Program had to increase and strengthen communication strategies.

Family contact analysis showed that 64% of the youth had telephonic contact with their families; 12% participated of individual family reunification processes; 6% participated in collective family reunification processes; 8% had family visits and 10% of the youth did not have any contact with their families.

1.2. HEALTH

The Program worked to ensure timely and effective beneficiaries' access to the state health network in order to reduce cost of assistance. This was complemented with a baseline health diagnosis and evaluation for all children upon entering the program. An average of 950 medical services was provided; 52% were general medical assistance; 33% were extensive dental care and 15% were specialized medical services.

The Program provided HIV/AIDS awareness to 73% of the beneficiaries and consultations to 3%; strengthened psychological assistance to 10%, and support sexual and reproductive health education for 14%.

1.2.1 Preventing Psychoactive Substances Use (PSU)

Program staff identified that 24% of the beneficiaries had problems with PSU. The *Prever* Foundation assisted an average of 20 to 25 adolescents, providing ambulatory assistance in Bogotá. This quarter, twelve adolescents completed their addiction recovery process. Cultural and recreational activities also were promoted to prevent PSU.



1.2.2 Medical Services

1.2.2.1 Health Assistance	1.2.2.2 Specialized Assistance to Prevent Sexual Abuse
<p>ICBF and IOM determined to provide health assistance to children and youth through local health service providers (EPS) or private medical institutions due to problems with the affiliation service provided by the ACRSE.</p> <p>The Program provided health assistance to approximately 90% of the total beneficiaries, including general and specialized medical services and comprehensive diagnosis for new beneficiaries. Some of the frequent health problems were: Leishmaniasis, visual and movement disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Prevention of sexual abuse policies and activities began a priority for the program.▪ Program staff assisted six youth victims of sexual abuse and drafted an initial assessment with the following results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Four youth were abused before entering the IAG- Five youth were abused during their permanence -- One youth was abuse after releasing- One youth was abuse before, during and after leaving the IAG▪ The program identified that 7% of the beneficiary's population were victims of sexual abuse.

2. Consolidation of pedagogical models and “tool kits”.

2.1. EDUCATION

The program drafted an inter-institutional coordination work plan with ICBF and Ministry of Education to provide children and youth with educational alternatives under the formal system. The educative action plan focused on a continued evaluation and monitoring system of the educative process, which included: a) national curricula adapted to meet ex-combatant children's needs for flexibility in terms of curricula, class time and study locations. b) different pedagogical models for each assistance modality; c) strengthening of an information system of individual educative processes; d) design of reports and evaluation forms. Program staff provided technical assistance to ICBF regional offices to present and disseminate this action plan.

This quarter, a total of 89 children accessed the formal education system. An average of 640 children and youth received educative services; 74% accessed the formal education system and 26% participated of leveling education programs. For those Program beneficiaries that cannot attend school, in-house application of the CAFAM methodology continued to serve as the primary tool for transition toward formal system. In some cases, the Program supplied supplementary assistance for transportation, uniforms and other incidental expenses when these are a barrier attending school.

School coverage reached about 74% of the beneficiaries; 50% had access to basic studies and 50% to high school; ten youth finished high school. The Program implemented success education models such as *Aula del Sol*, *La Escuela Busca al Niño* and ethno-education models for Afro Colombian and Indigenous populations.

The Program coordinated with the Ministry of Education and municipal education departments problematic issues such as the PSU. IOM supported the implementation of the National Education Plan and participated in several Local Education Worktables and The National Planning Education Worktable to design a 2009 work plan..

The education component was closely coordinated with the Program income generation component to guarantee education leveling with beneficiary's needs to enter technical training for employment. An average of 75% of the beneficiaries finished the initial vocational training; 25% began training process in some regional offices.

2.2. EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION

The component of employment preparation was part of a comprehensive strategy to support long-term sustainable economic and social reintegration. IOM strengthened SENA and other agencies' ability to supply appropriate programming in a timely manner, and developed intra-institutional mechanisms to ensure continuity in case of training across geographic zones. The program provided employment preparation training for 1,665 ex-combatants youths. SENA prioritized ex-combatant children as primary beneficiaries of its programs and activities; access to public technical training was achieved through program activities. SENA and ICBF adopted methodologies developed by the program to promote the economic reintegration of ex-combatant children.

The Program provided technical training for under aged ex-combatant beneficiaries, helping them identify vocational interests through a diagnosis that matches their skills and aptitudes with demand for labor in their areas of interest. As a result, youth increased their technical and employment skills and better opportunities for social and economic reincorporation.

- Inter-institutional local worktables took place with the participation of ICBF, ACRSE, SENA, CROJ and IOM nationwide. The SENA expanded services with trainings on different income generations activities, such as computer skills, coking, bakery, international business, nursing, environmental impact and craftworks. Other institutions such as COMFENALCO, COMFAMA or CAJASAN provided training on gastronomy, building, sells, metalworking, beauty and food handling for 11 youths.
- The Program provided technical assistance to the Employment National Worktable (conformed by SENA, IOM and ICBF) pursued strategic planning activities and drafted work plan documents.
- SENA and ICBF adopted the MIMA tool. IOM provided technical trainings on this tool to transfer to GOC institutions. Last quarter the program provided trainings for 312 civil servants working with SENA.

2.3. CULTURE AND RECREATION

Culture and recreation initiatives were used to develop children's personalities in a healthy, open manner after the closed, rigidly hierarchical military environment. Sport and art activities were used as a tool for psychological care and allowed full development of the children's leadership skills. Focus is provided on non-violent conflict resolution, empathy and anger management, in an attempt to heal the

trauma of violence and prevent PSU. Program staff coordinated sports, cultural and recreational activities for 100% of the beneficiaries.

1.b LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

3. REFERENCE AND OPPORTUNITY CENTERS (CROJ) AND TRANSFER OF CROJ RESPONSIBILITIES

CROJ expanded support for economic and social incorporation, with seven regional offices nationwide. IOM provided direct assistance in Chocó, Putumayo y Nariño. CROJ directly impact economic incorporation and provide an important safety net for social incorporation.

The CROJ model was improved developing four different areas of a comprehensive social and economic integration strategy: 1) Training schools; 2) Learning skills to improve living conditions; 3) Improving cultural and artistic skills; and 4) Business project. CROJ also provided support to reparation activities for 529 youths.

3.1. Transference of the CROJ model to the GOC

The transfer of CROJ model to the GOC begun with an inter-institutional articulation process between ICBF, ACRSE and IOM. According to the CONPES² document (N°3554) that established the National Policy for the Social and Economic Reintegration, program staff defined two action guidelines:

1) Evaluation and validation of the CROJ assistance model. This evaluation will identify the design and structure of the specialized assistance model to ex-combatant children for their social and economic reintegration. Program staff implemented a total of 17 interviews to civil servants and 36 focal groups in Medellín, Bogotá, Cali, Santander and the *Coffee Region*.

2) Standardization of activities and processes required to guaranty youth access to public services. Program staff drafted a protocol document that includes ICBF-ACRSE-IOM administrative processes.

IOM supported youths in accessing credits and other inputs provided by the ACRSE. The Program evaluated impact of essential program components, supported public/private links and promoted social investment.

- IOM transferred the *Reintegration Conditions Index* (ICR) to the ACRSE and provide personalized assistance to children and adolescents.
- The Program and ACRSE coordinated psychosocial and education services. CROJ staff coordinated the transfer of 826 youths to the ACRSE program to receive reintegration benefits.

3.2. Income Generation Activities

IOM jointly with ICBF and SENA strengthened CROJ with two important impacts on the income generation component. First, Program beneficiaries and former beneficiaries are able to access a much wider range of services for a longer period of time, encouraging and supporting their economic

² A policy guideline document that the GOC is oblige to follow.

incorporation over the medium- and long-term. Second, it allowed more meaningful analysis of the long-term impact of the services provided and their application to the real world. This data was an important input and certainly led to a re-examination of how skills are taught as well as which skills are most needed.

Program staff organized a videoconference to disseminate CROJ guidelines and main activities for 2009, including the components mentioned above. The videoconference took place in Bogotá with the participation of 1,000 civil servants from different regions and counterparts. SENA uploaded all the available information in its website.

Fourteen local work groups were held by SENA, with the participation of civil servants. As a result 274 youth were referred to SENA; 105 youths attended an initial training module to define their vocational profiles in Antioquia, Santander, Bogotá and Valle; and 143 participated of technical training courses on informatics, cooking, bakery and 26 youth participated in advance education courses on business management, jewelry and nursing.

The Program trained youth over 18 years of age to place them in a job or receive income generation assistance. A total of 15 youths were employed in sectors such as construction, security, merchandizing, advertising and food industry.

4. Colombia's new legal framework

4.1. Reparation Programs

The program provided technical assistance for the protection of victimized child to the Colombian National Commission for Reparation and Reconciliation (CNRR). As a result IOM held three training workshops to explain the process for the administrative reparation of children and youth with the participation of civil servants, recruitment victims and their families.

Program staff started the identification and guidance of legal benefits for 162 youth victims of recruitment by IAG. IOM provided guidance to 529 victims in accessing government programs and benefits – including civil registry, social security, education and housing subsidies; 69% of these youth accessed CNRR services.

IOM/ICBF drafted a reparation project proposal to strengthen community social networks in Trujillo (Valle). The project will improve living conditions of violence and recruitment victims, focusing on the reconstruction of social networks and community values. Main points of actions will be: assessment, intervention and evaluation.

- The CROJ provided services to 693 youths. A total of 273 beneficiaries accessed health services; 485 youths were referred to formal education programs and ten received subsidies. The CROJ provided training to 105 youths on labor skills out of which four youth received subsidies.
- The CROJ referred youths to different companies for employment opportunities and 799 get a job.
- Joint activities with ICBF focused on improving cultural services for 205 youths and 77 families became part of the CROJ regional support networks. CROJ staff assisted 31 youths to obtain legal documentation and 10 new institutions became part of CROJ's national network.

4.2. Scholarships to Canada for Youth Participating in Reparation Processes

- The program held a series of coordination meetings to draft a 2009 work plan. Project staff defined the regional offices that will participate in the selection process; notified regional offices to send candidates' profile to the central office; and defined the composition of work team.
- IOM provided technical support consisted of collective pilot reparations projects; development of reconciliation projects; and legal counsel and support to ten ex-combatant youths, who travelled to Canada to work as temporary agrarian workers.
- Scholarships abroad were a success social and economic reinsertion methodology. IOM transferred this project and methodology to the ICBF, which will fund this project in 2009.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

<i>Reintegration Conditions Index (ICR)</i>	<i>SAME</i>
<p>The Program scheduled transferring of ICR methodology to CAE and extra-institutional "family" settings nationwide for May 2009. CROJ work team will coordinate capacity building and transfer trainings, in order to strengthen inter-institutional coordination and increase institutional networks efficiency.</p> <p>IOM increased the number of ICR test applied and provided required technical assistance. A total of 63 youths took ICR for initial evaluation; 28 youths took ICR for evaluation process and CROJ staff provided five ICR</p>	<p>IOM started the information verification and updating process. Program staff identify that 80% of the CROJ beneficiaries are registered in the SAME.</p> <p>The program designed new registering tools and provided specialized intensive training to implement SAME in different ICBF regional offices.</p>
<i>SIMONI</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ICBF included the SIMONI system into its global information system. Program staff started the implementation of a work plan to update and redesign SIMONI to fulfill ICBF requirements. 	

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Program activities allowed children and youths' access to legal documentation rights. It was a basic services that permit children and youths' access to other rights and services. The program increased coverage and assistance to an average of 640 youths to obtain legal documentation. Currently, just 12% of the beneficiaries do not have documents.

Total Youths	Administrative Situation		Youths with Identification Documents
	Youths with open Cases	Youths with CODA Certificates	
640	16%	45%	88%
%			

Beneficiaries Life Story:

In Her Own Words: “I was obliged to go with them, I do not want any other child be recruited by IAG”. A story from one of the CROJ beneficiaries in Colombia.

The CROJ social and economic reintegration model is one of the assistance methodologies used by the USAID/IOM Consolidation Program to Support Child Ex-Combatants and Prevent Recruitment of Children by IAG. CROJ provide reference for employment, technical training, health, education services and psychosocial monitoring in Colombia.

Yamileth is a 21 year old youth, a girl recruited by an IAG when she was only 14 years old. She lived in Cienaga, with her parents and her brother, when she was taken away from home; her parents were killed and; her brother was kidnapped. At the moment she is living with a family and works as an assistant of a civil engineer, thanks to the services provided by the CROJ and other program services. She wants to study psychology to help other children in her situation.

"Before I came into the program my life was really hard. I spent ten months tied to a tree and had to provide nursery assistance to irregular combatants until I escaped. I ran away with two friends, we walked for more than ten hours until we finally reached a town where we were received by the army and taken to the ICBF regional office, they helped me find a home and peace in my life. However, my family was destroyed and I am still afraid of helicopters, moving water and men".

Yamileth received vocational training and other technical trainings on beauty and secretary services skills. "Education at this program has made me so confident of myself, and I think to myself if an opportunity like those in the past can now come my way, it will be like a burning bush. The training has made me realize my past mistakes and taught me the easiest way of handling business".

B. PREVENTION COMPONENT

The Program's second specific objective is to work with local institutions and communities to reduce risk of recruitment by IAG in those geographic areas where children are most vulnerable. Prevention included three main elements: 1) support for the National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment CIPR; 2) application of Law 1098/2006 and other changes to national policy that mobilize official resources to prevent recruitment; 3) Public Education and other Social Investment that support Program objectives. Taken as a whole, Prevention activities worked to re-make national attitudes about child combatants.

1. Support for the CIPR National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment (NCRP)

IOM provided technical support to the NCRP, drafting a project proposal for the European Commission to fund additional recruitment prevention activities. The program developed and strengthened local institutional and social capacity, articulating the national recruitment prevention policy with local development plans and other local laws. Program staff provided technical assistance to design 2009 work plans and increase inter-institutional cooperation in Barranquilla, Tunja, Sogamoso, Chiquinquirá, Valledupar, Pueblo Bello, Magdalena, Ariguaní, Mocoa, Neiva, Garzón, Itaguí, Manizales, Cúcuta, Los Patios, Tibú, Villa del Rosario (Norte de Santander), Arauca and Villavicencio.

Two capacity building trainings took place to promote cultural change and strengthen community and family networks for the protection of children rights in Tolima. These training workshops complemented awareness campaigns against childhood abuse and family violence with the participation of civil servants, community leaders and other local and regional authorities

Program staff supported a series of training workshops for the implementation of existing legislation, legal training and broad-based interaction with the participation of 85 civil servants in Huila.

The Program updated MVRO analysis in Huila and Cesar to evaluate social and institutional conditions, cross-reference these with various indicators of violence (social, political, inter-familial, etc.). The result provided a benchmark of risk to children from recruitment by the IAG as well as other recommendations to increase youth participation. Some 181 children/youths and 23 civil servants received technical training and participated of prevention activities.

Program staff provided technical assistance to two Social and Childhood Councils in Sogamoso and Monteria with the participation of 51 civil servants and community leaders. Capacity building activities to prevent youth crime and recruitment were held in Bello (Antioquia) with the participation of stakeholders such as Mapp-OEA and UNICEF. Evaluation and mapping activities were held to identify media information in order to promote the dissemination of information that helps to protect children rights.

2. Law 1098/06 and Other Public Policy

Program activities continued to provide technical and financial support for Law 1098/06 implementation and other Public Policy activities that help protect children from IAG. IOM became part of the inter-institutional working groups to organize the VIII Governors Encounter in Bucaramanga. The Encounter will take place in June 2009 and will focus on food security. The

program provided technical assistance in the following work groups: 1) Youth Participation; 2) Communication Tools; and 3) Technical assistance for the protection of children and youth rights.

2.1. Office of the Inspector General

Capacity building trainings were provided to civil servants and other stakeholders such as the Office of the Inspector General (attorney general's office). Program staff strengthened an inter-agential committee by providing technical assistance to evaluate the implementation of Development Plans 2008-2011, specifically related to childhood and youth.

The inter-agential committee activities with IOM support also included: 1) Establishment of a national strategy to help regional and local governments in the implementation of their programs for a comprehensive strategy to protect children rights. 2) Organization and implementation of training workshops with municipalities' mayor offices 3) Design and implementation of an information, monitoring and evaluation system to support Childhood and Youth Development Plans.

Program activities provided technical and financial support for Law 1098/06 and other Public Policy activities that help protect children from IAG. Program staff strengthened Regional Worktables for the Childhood, Adolescence and Youth, as well as departmental and municipal Councils of Social Policy and development plans, and other regional and local initiatives that prevent recruitment such *Alianza por la Niñez*. Program staff provided technical assistance to public institutions at the local level.

2.2. Formulation of Public Policies on Childhood and Adolescence

Departmental and local initiatives were supported. Meta, Boyacá, Bogotá and to some extent the Montes de Maria region received intensive assistance to improve their use of national resources, and to incorporate Prevention in formal planning exercises at the regional level. Regional conflict observatories helped provide more information specific to recruitment. Broader application of initiatives such as the formulation of public policies for Meta applied Program methodologies more widely.

Program staff provided technical assistance to develop a workshop on monitoring and evaluation of childhood and youth public policy implementation, with the participation of 35 civil servants and decision makers.



3. Public Education: Local-level Activities – MVRO and other.

IOM updated the MVRO tool to evaluate social and institutional conditions; cross-reference these with various indicators of violence (social, political, inter-familial, etc.). The updated tool included national and international legal framework and new pedagogical models and tools. The result provides a useful benchmark of risk to children from recruitment by the IAG as well as other vulnerabilities to violations of their civil and personal rights. The MVRO activities concluded with a specific action plan to prevent further violations.

As a result of MVRO activities and public policies strengthening four recruitment prevention projects were drafted and will be implemented in Arauca, Nariño, Valle del Cauca and Norte de Santander. IOM will work with ACNUR, Governor Offices and Pastoral Social to benefit a total of 1,969 CH&Y (17% Afro Colombians); 50 families and ten public institutions.



Cultural & artistic youths' activities

3.1. Special Support to Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Communities [Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF)]

IOM drafted a project proposal for USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund's (DCOF) support, to prevent the recruitment of Afro-Colombian and Indigenous children and youth in the Pacific strip and Tolima that will: 1) Directly support to 10.000 youth to promote their participation, identity, development and rights protection; 2) Strengthen social networks and family ties and 3) Support key Government of Colombia agencies and public policies that directly support Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities.

3.1.1. Special Support to Indigenous Communities

Program staff held capacity building and community participation trainings in *Rio Sucio*. As a result of the MVRO implementation, the program held training workshops to reinforce social networks protecting children against recruitment by IAG. The strategy focused on communitarian work and the participation of indigenous communities such as the *Emberá Chamí*. A total of ten civil servants and 15 Indigenous participated of these trainings.

Program activities supported Indigenous Educative Centers to strengthen Indigenous identity and reinforced the community productivity capacity from a "Food Sovereignty"³

3.2. Regional and National Awareness Campaigns

IOM provided technical assistance to ICBF for the implementation of a comprehensive awareness raising campaign directed at public authorities, youth at risk and illegal armed actors to commemorate ten-year program existence. The campaign's emphasized on social reintegration processes and the importance of families and communities role.

Program staff provided technical assistance to coordinate and organize an International Recruitment Prevention Encounter to show governments social investment initiatives to prevent CH&Y recruitment and to evaluate them.

4. Other Social Investment

4.1. Ministry of National Education Agreement

As part of second phase a cooperation agreement with MEN and UNICEF, IOM drafted and started the implementation of two projects to promote citizenships competencies at national and local levels. The

³ It is a term originally coined by members of *Via Campesina* in 1996 [1] to refer to a policy framework advocated by a number of farmers, peasants, pastoralists, fisher folk, Indigenous Peoples, women, rural youth and environmental organizations, namely the claimed "right of peoples to define their own food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries systems," in contrast to having food largely subject to international market forces.

first strategy is *Aulas en Paz* aimed at promoting citizenship values between teachers and youths. The project benefited 4,200 students and their families; 84 teachers and strengthened 69 educative institutions in Norte de Santander, César, Magdalena and Chocó.

A second project called *Pedagogy and Protection for Childhood* (PPN Spanish acronym) started in Nariño, Putumayo; Meta and Tolima. A set of capacity building activities was held to promote civic values and provided education infrastructure to face violence situations. Twenty educative institutions were targeted; 4,500 children and youths and 500 teachers participated in project activities. IOM signed seven cooperation agreements with local governments to implement educative activities: program staff held awareness campaigns with regional and local community leaders and other authorities.

4.2. The “*Jóvenes Conviven por Bogotá*” Project - The Mayor Office of Bogotá (MOB)–

The project concluded this period, accomplishing objectives and expected results. A total of 60 youth initiatives were supported; 700 youths benefited from project activities and; approximately 15.000 people from youths communities benefited.

Program staff organized four Youths Encounters in the Park *El Tunal*, Kennedy, Parkway and the *Plazoleta* Las Nieves. The youths had an opportunity to show their singing, dancing and acrobatics abilities.



These activities completed an exchange of experiences and knowledge and promoted alliances between youth organization.

The Program organized a Youth Encounter in Paipa with the participation of 110 youths from 601 organizations. The IOM and MOB work team held three training workshops on communications, Human Rights and Alternative Justice.

Program staff organized a closing event, where a certificate was given to the organizations that were part of the Program and successfully implemented their projects.

4.3. The “*Jóvenes Tienen la Palabra*” Strategy

IOM promoted a youth participation strategy based on the dissemination of children and youth rights/ duties and promotion of income generation projects. The project implemented three action points to prevent children recruitment:

- Leadership schools to increase youth participation and comprehensive protection of rights
- Youth participation as a human right using 30 cultural and artistic activities
- Meetings with possible model leadership roles
-

Program staff drafted the 2009 work plan and targeted the implementation regions: Antioquia, Arauca, Bogotá, Bolívar, Cauca, Chocó, Meta, Nariño, Santander, Valle, Casanare and the Coffee Region. The team identified youth leaders and promoted their participation in the design of public policies. A Youth Gathering took place in Bogotá with the participation of 900 youths and the President of Colombia, who work together on different youth interests and projects.



Participation of the president of Colombia and other national authorities

4.4. Youth Initiatives and Social-Economic Reintegration Projects

CROJ activities provided technical assistance including follow up and monitoring activities for 869 youths' income generation projects in the *Clubes Juveniles* initiative and 784 Youths Undergoing an Administrative Process to Re-establish their Rights (PARD). Beneficiaries participated in social, cultural, training and income generation projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Baseline studies specific to recruitment show significant differences after Program intervention

Monitoring and evaluation of Prevention activities improved. The program hired comprehensive baseline studies and promoted assessment activities with the different implementing agencies. A baseline study was carried out by *Econometria*, preliminary reports were drafted and final results will capture a meaningful sample of the beneficiary population for comparison.



Youth Gathering in Paipa

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR COLOMBIANIZATION

IOM strengthened a total of ten institutions, as follows:

At the national level:

- National Ministry of Education
- National Committee for Prevention of Recruitment
- *Estrategia Hechos y Derechos*
- *Alianza para la Niñez Colombiana*
- ICBF

Four Governors Offices in:

- Nariño
- Meta
- Cesar

- Tolima

And the City Hall Office in Bogotá

Exit Strategy Planning

IOM conducted an assessment of institutional needs for efficient and effective decentralization of Program strategies and interventions. Based on this assessment, IOM institutionalized some best assistance practices and methodologies at appropriate levels. IOM supported public/private links and promote social investment. The *Hogar Tutor* modality and CROJ model were the main assistances practices that were transferred to some regional and local GOC institutions.

As part of the *Colombianization* process ICBF and IOM worked together in variety number of areas. Jointly work plans, activities and evaluations took place during the program implementation.

Four inter-institutional coordination meetings were held to plan handover processes. A handover 2009 work plan was drafted and under implementation. ICBF assumed operational and administrative costs (two staff members) that were funded by USAID in 2008. The program hired an additional ICBF staff member to map and consolidate the required information for an impact evaluation document, which will be published as a book.

ICBF Assumes Implementation Responsibility

IOM promoted efficient and effective decentralization of Program strategies and interventions transferring the *Hogar Tutor* modality to ICBF regional offices. Capacity Building training was given to 34 government national officials in Caldas. Program staff provided technical assistance to draft work plans for the implementation of this modality in five ICBF regional offices.

Program staff supported the implementation of an ICBF cooperation agreement with the Madrid community to transfer a training methodology for citizenship and labor skills. This project will strengthen social and economic reintegration processes, benefiting 200 children and youth in Bucaramanga, Cali, Medellin, Bogotá, Pereira and Cartagena. IOM technical support allowed found raising activities to ICBF's assumption of implementation responsibility.

IOM improved Information systems indicators such as SIMONI to be installed and utilized as part of the National Family Welfare Information System (SIM). ICBF and IOM included in the 2009 work plan the drafting of technical documents to provide specialized assistance to Indigenous participating of the socio- family settings modality. Program staff scheduled a meeting with indigenous authorities in Bogotá, to adopt *Hogares Tutores* assistance model in the Indigenous Communities. IOM will provide technical assistance to ICBF regional offices to targeted some families and implement pilot projects. Specialized, culturally-appropriate programming training will be provided to these families as *Hogares Tutores*.

The quality of Program assistance models and activities, rule and dissemination of law, were evaluated. The planning process emphasized institutions, institutional capacity, and absorptive capacity in order to improve institutional performance. As a result an updated document will be drafted by program staff.

Consolidation of Key GOC Partners: “the Four Rs”

Capacity building trainings were provided to civil servants and other stakeholders in charge of restitution of rights for youth national reparations programs, reconciliation processes, and prevention of recruitment. Program staff strengthened several inter-agential committees by providing technical assistance to evaluate the implementation of Development Plans 2008-2011, and projects specifically related to childhood and youth.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

Main lessons learned can be summarized as follows:

- ***Specialized psycho social assistance and reparation- restitution of rights programs have to be provided to victims of sexual abuse:*** Inter-institutional coordination processes and the inclusion of families and communities; as well as early alerts provide by psycho-social ICBF and implementing agencies teams are necessary to address this problem.
- ***Monitor constantly and provided timely technical assistance:*** Develop a monitoring plan early on then, stay with it. Program staff timely assistance, flexibility and be prepared to re-target are highly appreciate by local and regional GOC and community authorities. The development of strategic plans and performance monitoring plans with developing country, donor and technical assistance partners is important to develop consensus on objectives and how performance will be monitored.
- ***Work Plans must be flexible, straightforward and have a clear goal and clear and concise objectives:*** In dynamic situations, static and complicated plans are not likely to work. Develop a strategic plan early on, knowing that it may change over time. IOM drafted 2009 work plan with most stakeholders and implementing agencies, including these efficiency requirements.
- ***Keep expectations realistic:*** With so much to do, it is easy to over commit. Focus on the doable, build off successes, and create some constructive forward progress. IOM received several financial and technical support requests, that addressed by providing capacity building and community strengthening projects that allowed Colombian society to face and foster childhood and youth issues.

6. PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING TERM

- CROJ staff will start IICR trainings and transfer to regional offices
- ICBF and IOM agreed to held specialized follow-up and monitoring activities in the Meta Regional offices to avoid risk situations such as violence and abuses.
- Program staff will draft a guideline document to increase quality standards of the provided technical assistance.
- Start the implementation of the ICBF Family Guidelines Model.

7. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- In the *Hogar Tutor* of Villavicencio some youths had coexistence problems that affected normal functioning of the regional program. The program promoted the articulation of national and regional ICBF headquarters to address the crisis and schedule a work plan for strengthening social integration and peaceful conflict resolution.
- SENA training processes were delayed. The program used CROJ educational institutions networking to supply training requirements.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Collaboration on performance management with development partners is essential. The Program developed strategic plans and performance monitoring plans with stakeholders, donors and technical assistance partners to develop consensus on objectives and how performance will be monitored. Collaboration increases the likelihood of identifying and obtaining useful information, and of strengthening the assessing and learning process. It also provides an opportunity to increase partner country understanding of performance assessment.

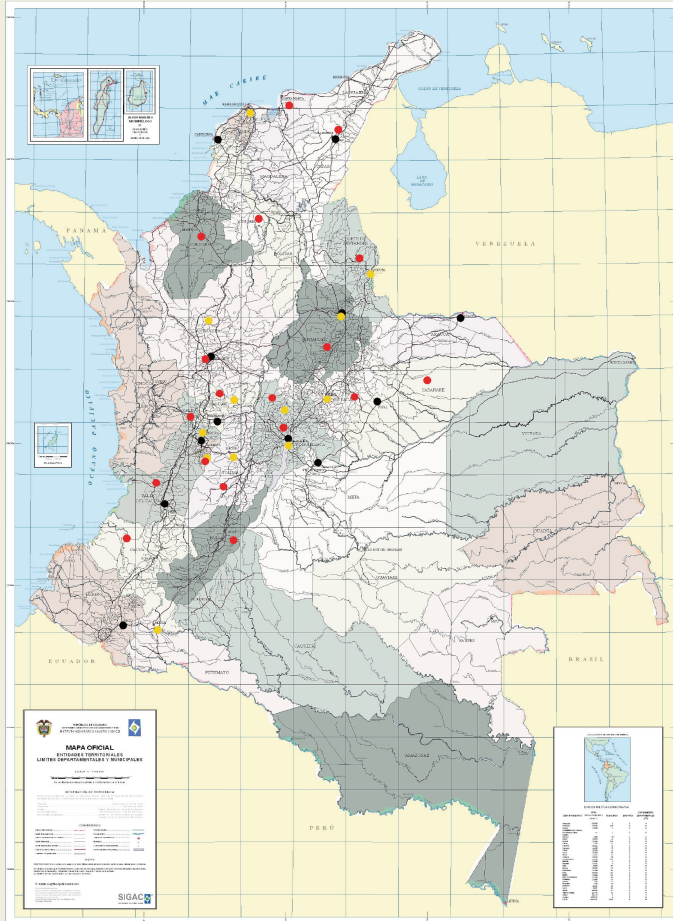
IOM confirmed that planning for performance monitoring is necessary. A well-designed performance monitoring plan developed during the initial strategy and activity planning period at the operating level is essential for providing managers with data on a timely and consistent basis for decision-making. This process will allow the qualification of the specialized assistance and the transference of best practices and methodologies at appropriate levels

Establishing standards and criteria for performance indicators and data for early alerts is important for obtaining credible and useful information. Performance indicators for monitoring and reporting performance must be useful for management decision making, reflect progress of results sought, measure change that is clearly and reasonably attributable at least in part to.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

Please see attached report

10. ANNEXES



Assistance to Children Released

Action Points

USAID

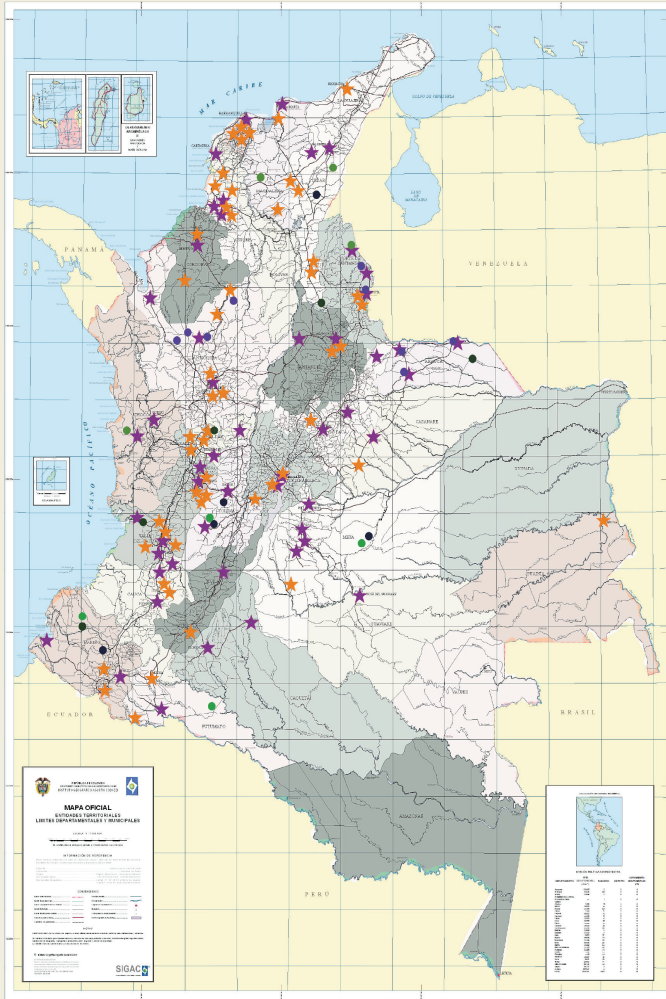
CAE, Hogar de tránsito, hogar gestor ●
casa juvenil and hogar tutor

Universities ●

CROJ ●



OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones



Recruitment Prevention Strategies

Action Points

USAID

- MVRO ●
- Recruitment Prevention Technical Agricultural Institutes - ITAS ●
- Youth Initiatives (Afro-colombian and indigenous) ●
- Regional Networks to Prevent recruitment by IAL ●
- Classrooms in Peace ●
- Childhood Protection and Pedagogy ●
- Intersectorial Commission 2008 ★
- Intersectorial Commission 2009 ★



OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones